

Serial No.: 10/754,152

REMARKS

Claims 6-20 and 24-29 are pending in the application upon entry of this amendment. Claims 6, 11, 12 and 16-18 are amended herein, and claims 1-5 are canceled. Claims 24-29 are newly added. Support for such claims is found in the original claims and page 13, lines 30** of the specification. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The amendments and new claims do not raise any new issues of patentability and/or require further search and consideration for the reasons expressed below. Moreover, such amendments place the application in condition for allowance.

I. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Applicant again acknowledges with appreciation the noted allowability of claims 8-13 and 16-20. These claims will be in condition for allowance upon being amended to independent form.

Independent claim 6 has been amended to include the features of at least one of allowable claims 8, 9, 10 or 13. In addition, claims 7, 14 and 15, and new dependent claims 24-28, each depend from claim 6. Accordingly, claim 6 together with dependent claims 7-10, 13-15 and 24-28 should now be in condition for allowance.

Allowable claim 11 has been amended to include the features of at least one of original allowable claims 11 or 12. New dependent claim 29 depends from claim 11. As a result, claim 11 together with dependent claims 12 and 29 should also now be in condition for allowance.

Allowable claims 16, 17 and 18 have each been amended to independent form, and therefore should also now be in condition for allowance. Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18, and therefore are similarly in condition for allowance.

Hence, all claims 6-20 and 24-29 should now be in condition for allowance.

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II. REJECTIONS

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in view of the use of the term "commercially available". Applicant has deleted the term from the claims, and thus the rejection is now believed to be moot.

The art rejections are similarly rendered moot in view of the above amendments.

III. CONCLUSION

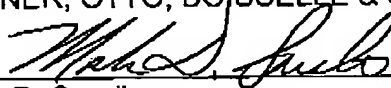
Accordingly, all claims should now be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE: January 26, 2006

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